## 2018 Annual Town Meeting: Let's Stay In Touch!

Today is where the conversation begins, not where it ends. There are many ways to get involved:

- 1) Contact Your Elected Officials: Contact information <u>available on the City's website</u>. Ask how you can help them, and let them know how they can help you! Our elected officials are *volunteering* their time and talents to the city, and the more input and support they have from you, the better they will be at representing your priorities.
- 2) **Testify:** Anyone can give in-person testimony at the beginning of any City Council meeting on *any* topic. You can also testify at any City Commission meeting on topics related to that commission. (Testimony two minutes max.)
- 3) Attend City Council Meeting: Check out upcoming City Council meeting agendas to see if a public hearing is being held on an issue you care about, or just come to City Council to learn about what the City is working on. All meetings are open to the public and occur every other Monday at 7pm right here. Can't make it? You can watch City Council meetings on public access TV.
- 4) Attend a City Commission Meeting, or better yet, join a commission! Whether you're interested in economic development, library programs, historical preservation, tree preservation, recreational activities, public safety, land use practices, or sustainability, the City has opportunities for you to volunteer. <a href="Check out the City website">Check out the City website</a> for vacancies and commission information.
- 5) Write a letter to the editor, or even a Citizen's View. The *Forest Grove News-Times* accepts political letters (max. 200 words), letters to the editor on timely topics (max. 300 words) or Citizen's View pieces (550 words max.) wherein readers can offer opinions more in-depth. Submit yours here.
- 6) **Volunteer for a local cause:** No matter the time of year, there are community causes that need your support. This time of year in particular, the homeless shelters are looking for <u>volunteers</u> to serve meals and help with shifts.
- 7) **Attend community events:** From the Forest Grove Farmers Market, to Coffee with a Cop and writer's groups at the library, our community hosts a wide variety of events where you can meet meet friends and mingle with neighbors.

It's so easy to say we're too busy to get involved, but our community is only as strong as we make it! So give whatever time, talents and TLC you can to making Forest Grove a great community!